



US Forest Service Rim Fire Recovery Weekly Update

Date: April 15, 2014

General Background:

- The Rim Fire started in August 2013 and eventually burned 257,314 acres, including 154,530 acres on the Stanislaus National Forest. Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) addresses immediate hazards. The treatments have been completed with the exception of storm patrol and monitoring.
- The Pacific Southwest Region, with substantial ongoing collaboration, is proceeding on a staged decision effort to accomplish NEPA for the salvage of hazard trees, burned timber, and restoration. The Stanislaus National Forest has formed two interdisciplinary teams to produce:
 1. A focused environmental assessment (EA) for proposed hazard tree removal along 194 miles of high use Forest Service Maintenance Level 2/3/4/5 roads, administrative and recreation facilities, and areas adjacent to private infrastructure. The proposed action for this EA includes 10,315 acres of NFS lands, of which 8,986 acres are along roads.
 2. An environmental impact statement (EIS) regarding salvage and restoration. The objective of the project is to implement actions designed to reduce the potential for future catastrophic fire by reducing the fuel load created by the Rim Fire, including capturing the perishable economic commodity value of the fire killed trees through timber salvage, in support of this objective. A total of 29,648 acres of NFS lands (all outside of inventoried roadless areas) are included in this project.
- The EA comment period has ended. Thirty-three letters were received.
- The Draft EIS is on schedule for public comment beginning in April 2014, with a decision scheduled for August 2014.
- The Emergency Situation Determination (ESD) draft is pending review by the Chief of the Forest Service. ESDs expedite project implementation to protect human health and safety, mitigate threats to natural resources, or to avoid loss of commodity values related to resource protection or restoration.
- Working on an agreement with FEMA to streamline projects where the FS and FEMA have mutual interest.

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